

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAKAR 01207 220801Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 EUR-12 SAJ-01 /091 W

-----220808 126585 /17

R 191310Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8315

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, SO, SU, FT, SG

SUBJ: SITUATION IN NORTHEAST AFRICA; SENEGALESE PERSPECTIVE

REF: A. STATE 34960, B. DAKAR 8084, C. KHARTOUM 0521,

D. ADDIS ABABA 0978, E. STATE 38683

1. SUMMARY: SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNED EVENING FEBRUARY 18 AFTER MEDIATION MISSION TO KHARTOUM AND ADDIS ABABA. GOS FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL CALLS HORN EXPLOSIVE "POWDER KEG" AND EXPRESSES CONCERN THAT ETHIOPIA CONFRONTING DIFFICULTIES ARISING FROM SEVERAL EXTERNAL DIRECTIONS WHILE FACING "CATASTROPHIC" SITUATION AT HOME. AS LONG AS POSSIBLE MEDIATION ROLE EXISTS, SENEGALESE MAY TRY TO MAINTAIN GENERALLY IMPARTIAL PUBLIC STANCE, ALTHOUGH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAKAR 01207 220801Z

CONCERN OVER SOVIET INFLUENCE IN SOMALIA, ADHERENCE TO OAU PRECEPT OF RESPECT FOR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND PARALLELS BETWEEN ERITREAN AND POLISARIO INSURGENCIES COULD ALL IMPEL SENEGAL TOWARD MORE SYMPATHETIC VIEW OF ETHIOPIAN POSITION.
END SUMMARY.

2. IN FEBRUARY 18 MEETING WITH SALOUM KANDE, DIRECTOR

OF POLITICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS IN SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTRY, CHARGE EXPRESSED US INTEREST IN AFRICAN INSIGHT INTO DEVELOPMENTS IN HORN AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL A. KANDE NOTED THAT SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER ASSANE SECK RETURNING LATER IN DAY FROM MEDIATION MISSION WHICH TOOK HIM TO ADDIS ABABA AND KHARTOUM ON INVITATION OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS (AS REPORTED BY REFTELS B-D). KANDE SAID SECK HAD CARRIED LETTERS FROM PRESIDENT SENGHOR TO NUMAYRI AND TEFERI BANTI, DELIVERING LATTER MESSAGE ORALLY IN ADDIS ABABA AFTER BANGI'S DEATH. SENGHOR HAD DECIDED NOT TO SEND MESSAGE TO SIAD BARRE IN BELIEF THAT SOMALIE NOT SO DEEPLY INVOLVED IN LATEST TENSIONS IN HORN AND IT WAS BEST TO "LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE" (PARTICULARLY IN ABSENCE OF ANY ENCOURAGEMENT FROM MOGADISCIO TO BRING SENEGAL'S GOOD OFFICES TO BEAR).

3. KANDE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT HORN WAS "POWDER KEG" WHICH COULD ERUPT AT ANY TIME. MAIN CONCERN AT MOMENT WAS THAT ETHIOPIA WAS TAKING ON TOO MANY PROBLEMS. IT WAS FACED WITH ATTEMPTED ERITREAN SECESSION, SOMALI CLAIMS, UNCERTAINTY IN DJIBOUTI AND "CATASTROPHIC" SITUATION INTERNALLY. KANDE NOTED RELIGIOUS CHARACTER OF ERITREAN MOVEMENT AND SUGGESTED THAT ARABS VIEWED SECESSION AS HOLY WAR. AT SAME TIME, ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT WAS RESORTING TO INDEFENSIBLE MEASURES AT HOME INCLUDING OPENING OF DIPLOMATIC POUCHES. ON THIS SUBJECT, AFRICAN MISSIONS IN ADDIS ABABA HAD GONE TO ETHIOPIAN HEAD OF STATE TO PROTEST AND HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT IMMUNITY OF AFRICAN--BUT NOT OTHER--POUCHES WOULD HENCEFORTH BE RESPECTED. ACCORDING TO KANDE, AFRICANS REFUSED THIS SOLUTION AND ETHIOPIANS THEN AGREED TO OPEN ONLY ARAB

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAKAR 01207 220801Z

POUCHES AND LATER RESTRICTED POUCH OPENINGS TO THOSE OF SUDAN ALONE.

4. SECK MISSION TO EAST AFRICA IS EVIDENCE OF DEEP SENEGALESE CONCERN OVER SITUATION IN HORN. KANDE'S COMMENTS WERE MADE PRIOR TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S RETURN TO DAKAR WITH REPORT ON HIS MISSION, AND EMBASSY WILL REPORT ANY PUBLIC REMARKS BY SENEGALESE OFFICIALS FOLLOWING SECK'S ARRIVAL. IF POSSIBILITY OF CONTINUING SENEGALESE MEDIATION EXISTS, SENEGAL WILL PRESUMABLY SEEK TO MAINTAIN GENERALLY IMPARTIAL STANCE ON MERITS OF SUDAN/ETHIOPIA DISPUTE. PAST POLICY HAS BEEN TO AVOID PUBLIC CHARACTERIZATION OF PROBLEMS IN HORN AS AFRICAN/ARAB OR CHRISTIAN/MOSLEM CONFLICTS, STRESSING INSTEAD THAT ALL PARTIES INVOLVED ARE "BROTHER" PEOPLES. THESE FACTORS AND SENEGALESE DISTASTE FOR INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHIOPIA MAY DISPOSE GOS TO MAINTAIN MIDDLE GROUND ON CONFLICTS IN HORN, BUT IF FORCED TO CHOOSE SIDES IN CONFRONTATION, AT LEAST THREE FACTORS COULD IMPEL SENEGAL TOWARD ETHIOPIAN CAMP: (1) ADHERENCE TO OAU PRECEPT

OF RESPECT FOR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NATIONAL UNITY,
AS SUGGESTED BY SECK'S REPORTED COMMENTS IN ADDIS ABABA
DESCRIBED REF D; (2) PARALLELS BETWEEN ERITREAN AND POLI-
SARIO INSURGENCIES; (3) CONCERN OVER SOVIET INFLUENCE IN
SOMALIE.

DAVIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, TERRITORIAL UNIFICATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAKAR01207
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770060-1029
Format: TEL
From: DAKAR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770225/aaaaavpg.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a65ff2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 34960, 77 DAKAR 8084, 77 KHARTOUM 521, 77 ADDIS ABABA 978, 77 STATE 38683
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3275309
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITUATION IN NORTHEAST AFRICA; SENEGALESE PERSPECTIVE
TAGS: PFOR, ET, SO, SU, FT, SG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a65ff2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009